SUBJECT: BUDGET PROCESS

I. PURPOSE: To describe the process of budgeting and establish policy and time tables.

II. POLICY:

1. The State Board of Regents has established definitions, policies, and procedures for submitting budget requests and for administering financial affairs. Institutional policies are intended to complement and implement Regents' policies.

2. Each year the State Board of Regents provides instructions for preparing budget requests and for submitting financial information.

3. Funding for higher education, which is included in the general appropriations act, involves cooperation among the Utah System of Higher Education (USHE), the State Board of Regents (SBR), the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE), Institutional Boards of Trustees, the Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget (GOPB), and the Legislative Fiscal Analyst (LFA), as well as the Governor and Legislature.

4. The institutional process interfaces with the Regents' instructions and currently follows the pattern outlined below:

   Apr/May: Guidelines and Hearings
   Guidelines and Hearings
   OCHE distributes the budget preparation calendar and provides guidelines and parameters for use in preparing institutional budget requests. The President holds budget hearings, as necessary, to compile and prioritize institutional budget requests for consideration and possible integration into the upcoming USHE system wide budget request.

   June - Sept: Institutional Requests
   Institutional Requests
   OCHE collects and analyzes the institutional requests. OCHE prepares consolidated base budget recommendations and details proposed enhancements for SBR consideration.
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Sept/Oct: Budget Hearings/Adoption
SBR holds hearings with the institutions to determine budget needs to forward to the Governor and Legislature for consideration. SBR adopts their budget request and forwards relevant documentation.

Nov/Dec: Budget Preparation
GOPB, with input from the State Tax Commission and review by the LFA, prepares up-to-date revenue projections to be used in finalizing the Governor’s budget recommendations.

Dec: Budget Presentation
The Governor’s Office publicly releases the Governor’s budget recommendations.

Dec/Jan: Fiscal Analyst Review
The LFA analyzes the Governor’s and Regent’s recommendations, independently projects revenue (with review by GOPB), and prepares operational and capital budget recommendations for consideration by the Legislature.

Jan - Mar: Legislative Deliberations
The Legislative Executive Appropriations Committee has subcommittees which hold hearings on the budget recommendations (the Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee looks specifically at the SBR request and the Governor’s recommendations for higher education). The subcommittees gather relevant testimony before sending their recommendations to the Executive Appropriations Committee. The Executive Appropriations Committee prepares appropriations bills to be considered by the full Legislature. Bills passed by the Legislature are forwarded to the Governor.
SUBJECT: BUDGET PROCESS

Mar/Apr: Budget Implementation
The Governor signs or vetoes the enrolled appropriations bills. The state constitution allows the Governor line item veto authority.

May/Jun: Budget Approval
SBR approves institutional budgets for the upcoming year in summary form. These budgets incorporate any changes to state funding appropriated for USHE institutions.